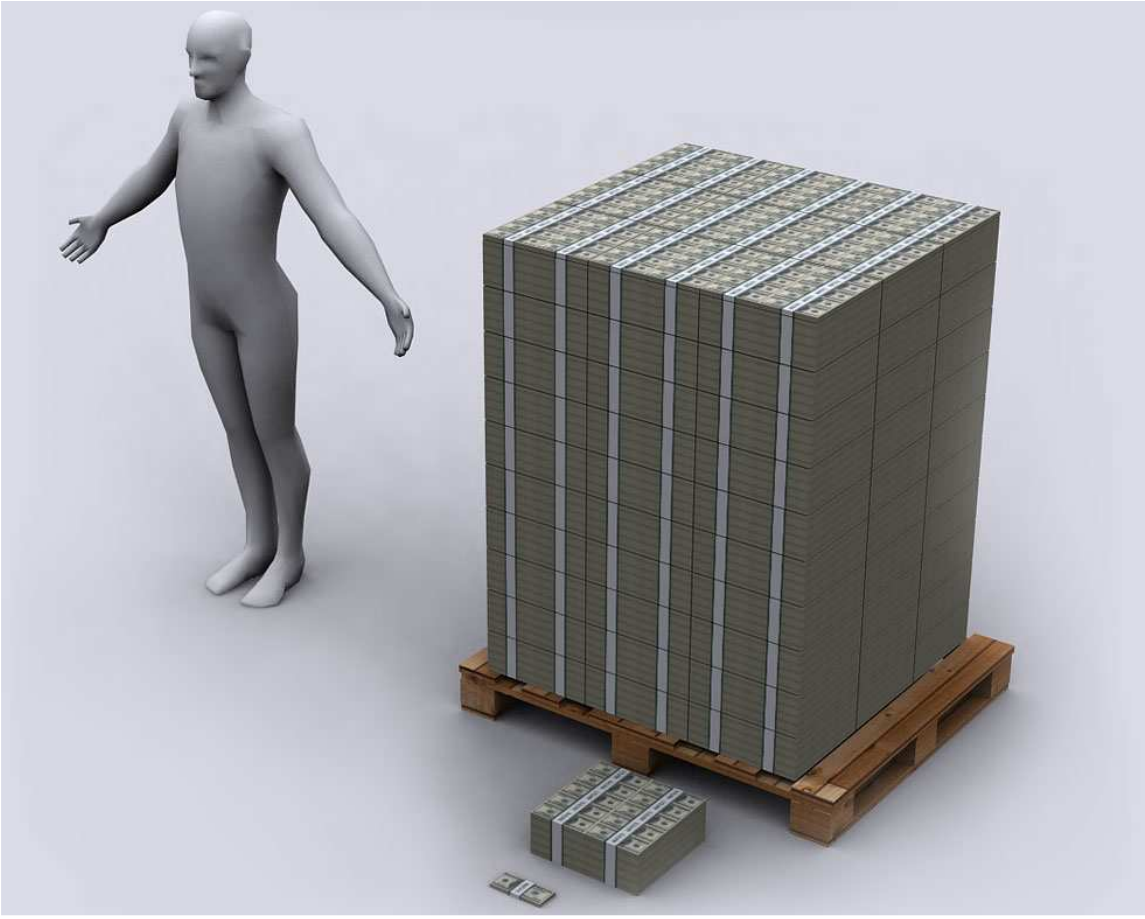
US Debt Visual Guide:

One Hundred Dollars: $100 Most counterfeited denomination in the world. Keeps the world moving.

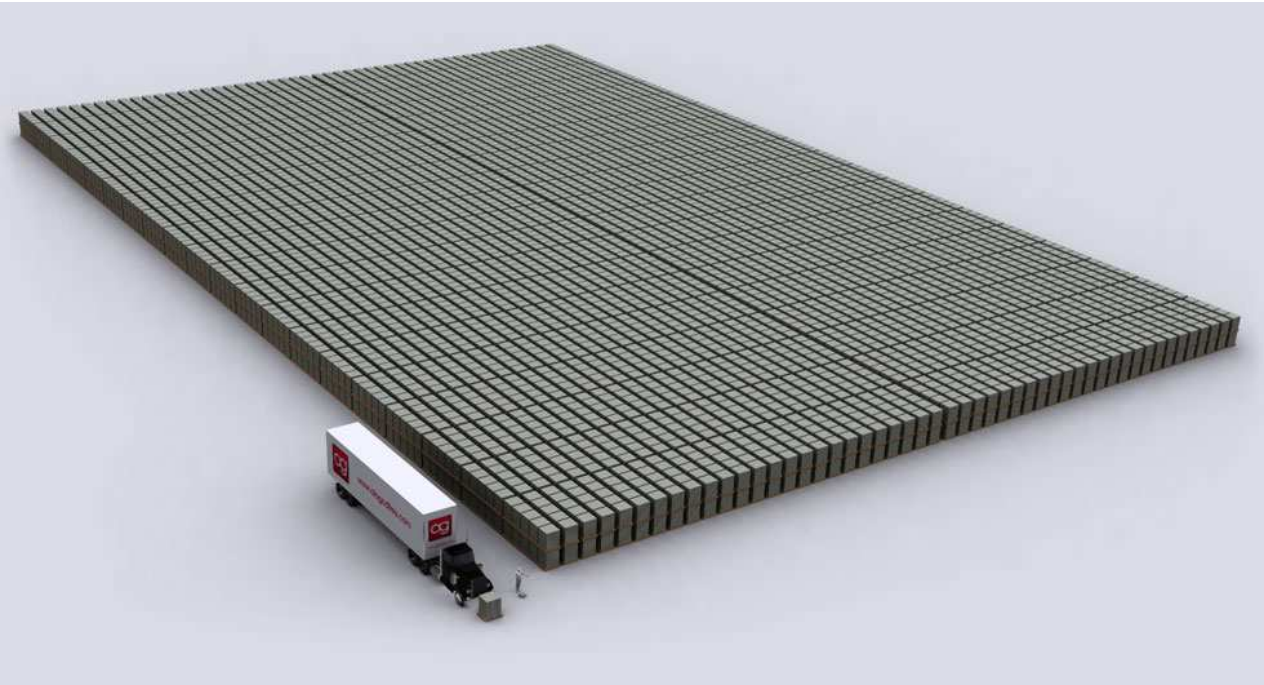
Ten Thousand Dollars: $10,000 Enough for a great vacation, or to buy a used car.
Approximately one year of work for the average human on earth.

One Million Dollars: $1,000,000 Not as big of a pile as you thought, huh?
Still this is 92 years of work for the average human on earth.



One Hundred Million Dollars: $100,000,000 Plenty to go around for everyone.
Fits nicely on an ISO / Military standard sized pallet.

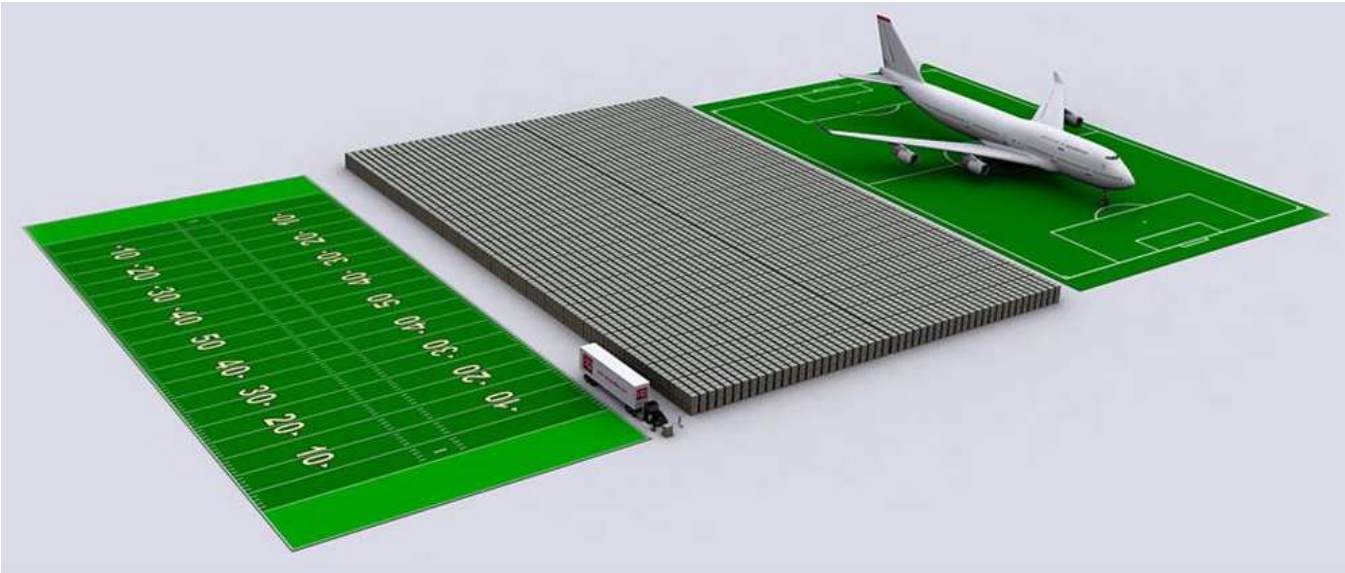
One Billion Dollars: $1,000,000,000 You may need help robbing the bank. Now we're getting serious!



One Trillion Dollars: $1,000,000,000,000 When the U.S government speaks about a 1.7 trillion deficit, this is the volume of cash the U.S. Government borrowed in 2010 to run itself.

Keep in mind it is double stacked pallets (two pallets high) of $100 million dollars each, full of $100 dollar bills. You are going to need a lot of trucks to freight this around.

If you spent $1 million a day since Jesus was born, you would have not spent $1 trillion by now...but only $700 billion- the same amount the banks got during the bailout.



One Trillion Dollars (Another View): Comparison of one trillion dollars to a standard sized American Football field, and a European Football field.

Say hello to the Boeing 747-400 transcontinental airliner that's hiding on the right.
This was until recently the biggest passenger plane in the world.

15 Trillion Dollars: US GDP (Gross Domestic Product), and also (coincidentally) the US Debt for 2011.

$15,064,816,000,000 The U.S. GDP in 2011. The debt as of Jan 1st, 2012 is 15,170,600,000,000.

The United States now owes more money than its entire yearly production (GDP).

The Statue of Liberty seems rather worried, as United States national debt is soon to pass 20% of the entire world's combined GDP (Gross Domestic Product).

114.5 Trillion Dollars: $114,500,000,000,000 Total US Unfunded Liabilities.
To the right is the pillar of $100 bills that dwarfs the World Trade Center & Empire State Buildings, both at one point world's tallest buildings. If you look carefully you can see the tiny Statue of Liberty. This 114.5 Trillion dollar super-skyscraper is the amount of money the U.S. Government knows it does not have to fully fund promised Medicare, Social Security, and pension programs.

(Note: On this image the size of the base of the money pile is half a trillion, not 1 trillion as on other images. The size was changed to match the thickness of the Empire State and WTC more closely.)